

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With this response, claims 1-3, 5-11 and 14 are currently pending. Claims 4, 6, 12-13, and 15-30 are canceled without prejudice to subsequent revival. In response to the present restriction requirement, Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-3, 5 and 7-14), drawn to methods of refolding a eukaryotic ST3Gal3 protein fused to an MBD and optionally fused to a SBD. This election is with traverse.

The Office Action alleges that Groups I-VII are method steps comprising use of different protein domains fused to ST3Gal3, which is fused to a maltose binding protein domain (MBD) and that the ST3Gal3 protein comprising the MBD does not constitute a "special technical feature" as defined by PCT rule 13.2. The Office Action focuses on the protein used and does not discuss the patentable subject matter, *i.e.*, the method of refolding an insoluble eukaryotic ST3Gal3 protein fused to an MBD from an inclusion body. These method steps are a special technical feature and are not disclosed in the cited reference, WO20040099231. Each of the peptide tags are fused to the same ST3Gal3-MBD protein and used in the same method steps. The restriction between Groups I-VII, therefore, should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachments
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